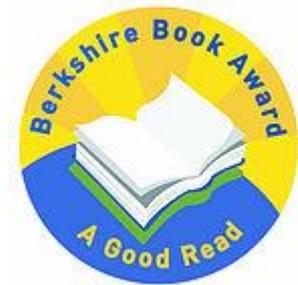


Berkshire Book Award 2026: Longlisted title

Cold Blood (Bite Risk series) by S.J. Wills



The world is still adjusting to life after the Rippocalypse – and there are plenty who aren't happy with the new status quo. Made public enemy number one, Sel needs to keep a low

profile, and make sure his new dangerous abilities stay hidden.

But there's an even bigger threat on the horizon, as Frozen Fever is spreading. Join Sel and his friends as they navigate a nail-biting horror story, dodging terrifying adults and even more terrifying beasts.

Discussion Questions

- This is the third in this series. Have you read the first two? If not, were you nervous about reading it? Have you been encouraged to catch up on the 'story so far'?
- The chapters are all headed by a character name (mostly Sel Archer and his friend Ingrid) and a date. Did you like this way of always writing in the first person? Or was it confusing catching up with different scenes? For example, there was a full 64 pages between one time Pedro 'starred' and his next appearance.
- Ingrid (aged 15) lives in a Children's Home. Does it ring true that she is allowed comparative freedom by Amy and Bernice, the people in charge?
- A new parasite is a possible cure for 'Turning', whilst accidental bites spread the virus. Did you guess what was being hidden in Sherman's basement? Or how Owen planned to spread even more terror?
- If you could 'Turn' on Howl Night into a 'Ripper', would you enjoy the changes and the freedom of being a different creature, although you might not remember what happened? Or would you try hard to stop it happening so you stayed in control?

Activity Ideas

- The front cover claims the Bite Risk series is 'For Fans of Skulduggery Pleasant'. Can you see a connection? Do you think it might appeal to other readers too?
- If you had to design a blood-sucking parasite, what would it look like? What would be its weakness, so it could be killed?
- There are regular sightings of crows in this story, which always feel menacing. Do you have a favourite 'menacing creature' that you would have chosen instead?